

**FINAL**



**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 9, 2008**

**PRESENT:** TOM CLOW, CHAIRMAN; HELEEN KURK, SELECTMAN; RICHARD W. BUTT, SELECTMAN

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Cherry Palmisano

**GUESTS:** Donna Osborne, Forrest Esenwine, Ginger Esenwine, Ann Rogers, John Rogers, Evelyn Connor, Lee Marcroft, Jim Donison, Robert Bailey, Frank Campana

**RUNNERS TO ANSWER THE TELEPHONE:** Greg Begin and Tina Connor

**7:00 p.m. Chairman Clow called the meeting to order.**

Chairman Clow announced that the purpose of tonight's meeting will be to answer questions on anything on the warrant or any questions regarding the budget.

Evelyn Connor, Town Clerk, announced that voting will take place in the gym of the new Weare Middle School from 7am to 7 pm and she encouraged all residents to go out and vote.

Mr. Frank Campana commented on Article 9 (Highway Building) and asked when the .21 cents per thousand gets paid is it on the interest and principal. Chairman Clow said that is the total payment on the 10 year bond. Mr. Campana said usually the first payment is interest only on the school's bond. Mr. Campana said in looking at the Town Report (page 73) there is outstanding debt laid out with number of years, principal and total payment and asked the Selectmen when they got the .21 cents for the highway bond do they have a similar pay scale for the bond payments. Chairman Clow said they do. Mr. Campana said the .21 cents seems to look low to him.

**MANIFESTS**

**Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign Manifest and order the Deputy Treasurer to sign checks dated March 12, 2009. Passed 3-0-0**

<b>Accounts payable</b>	<b>\$40,336</b>
<b>Gross Payrolls</b>	<b>\$39,821.12</b>
<b>Monthly Fire</b>	<b><u>\$4,306.97</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$84,464.09</b>

Mr. Forrest Esenwine informed the Board of his very strong displeasure about not having the minutes from the Deliberative Session in the Town Report. He feels that is a very important part of the legislative process in the Town of Weare and should be included in the Town Report.

Mr. Campana said in the Town Mailer he noticed in the explanation on Article 10 for the proposed operating budget for the town it says it is what it costs to run the town. He has a draft copy of some minutes from the Selectmen's table and it was said there is really no difference between the operating and the default; it is what is needed to run the town. Mr. Campana said he is confused, if both explanations are the same for the operating budget and the default budget, he feels he does not need to vote for anything over the default budget.

Selectman Butt feels Mr. Campana is taking it out of context, in December the difference was roughly \$60,000 between the 2 budgets and at that point in time there was no difference between the operating and default budget.

## FINAL

Selectman Butt said in December they were at the embryo stage of developing the budget. Selectman Butt said the budget that was presented at the Deliberative Session was not the same budget discussed in December, it changed on a weekly basis. Selectman Butt said there is a significant difference between the 2 budgets at this time. The proposed budget provides the money the town needs to get things done; the default is the bare minimum to get by. Selectman Butt said they base the default number on the prior year's dollar amount plus and minus contractual obligations, if they have 10 vehicles they need to maintain those vehicles and the cost to maintain those vehicles should be in the default budget. He feels once they purchase something there is a cost associated with it that should be included in the default budget to maintain that item. If they don't maintain the item it will not last as long as it should have. The default budget is what is necessary to maintain the status quo. Selectman Butt said the BOS has a certain obligation to provide for the town. Mr. Campana said that the taxpayer needs to fully understand that those obligations are included in the default budget. Selectman Butt said if they have an obligation to maintain a vehicle the cost should be included in the default budget. Selectman Butt said he has never heard anyone say if you vote for the default budget we are going to be cutting this and that, so to a taxpayer they think everything is fine, but when you look at everything that has to be done to get there, there is no training and employees are their most important assets and we are not training them. Mr. Campana said if the Town of Weare needs to make cutbacks to meet the default budget it certainly wouldn't be out of what other towns in the area and the state are doing. Selectman Butt said they will be seeing a reduction in revenue and when looking at the total tax obligation, other sources of revenue is significant (other than just property tax) if they start losing that revenue then property taxes will be going up. Mr. Campana said it is tough to have the taxpayers buying into expenditures when the revenues are not there to help out.

Selectman Kurk said when they get new equipment they need to let it be known up front there will be associated maintenance cost.

Selectman Butt said people put a lot of stock in the anticipated tax impact number, but they don't know what the revenues will in fact be.

Chairman Clow said last year with everything that passed the tax impact would have been over \$3.00 per thousand but because of the funds in the General Fund Balance they were able to keep the tax impact level. Chairman Clow said the rate is set the last week in October or early in November and by then they know what they are going to get from the state, know the fund balance, revenue and number of abatements. Selectman Kurk said the June number would not reflect what they are now discussing; it will be reflected in December. Chairman Clow said it does reflect the fact that they had a flat tax rate for half the year, does not have anything to do with what the 2009 will be. Chairman Clow said they are trying to be as frugal as possible but need to run the town.

Question on Article 9 (Bond for Highway Garage) why do they need to add to the building when they have so many class 6 roads. Chairman Clow said he is not sure how those things go together. Mr. Carl Knapp said first of all there is no relation between class 6 roads and the building. Mr. Knapp said they are not looking to add to the building they are looking to tear it down and replace it. Mr. Knapp said this needs to be done for the safety of the employees and to protect the huge investment they town has made on the vehicles. The building will house the vehicles and greatly increase their life expectancy. Mr. Knapp said they have no way to clean the salt off the trucks and currently they are outside and have to plug them in. Mr. Knapp said every time the employees get called in for a snowstorm it will allow them to have the trucks loaded and ready to roll and not waste time warming them up and loading them.

Question on Article 14 (Road Resurfacing) which roads will be resurfaced. Mr. Knapp said Thorndike Road for 1 1/3 miles will be total reconstruction and they will continue work on paving Abijiah Bridge through the intersection of Dudley Brook. Mr. Knapp said there will also be lots of gravel crushed on paved roads and money for calcium chloride on gravel roads.

## FINAL

Question on Article 11 (Capital Improvement Program) does the price include the replacement of the take home car that was crashed last month. Chief Begin said the Capital Reserve includes 3 cruisers slated for replacement this year and that vehicle is one of them that was scheduled to go.

Mr. Knapp said he has been asked several times if the brush grinder being requested can be used anywhere other than at the transfer station. Mr. Knapp said it can also be used for brush chipping on the side of the roads as well. Selectman Butt said it is a separate article because it is a new purchase and has never been included in CIP. Chairman Clow said the need is because there is a deadline on how much longer they will be able to burn. Mr. Knapp said the deadline was supposed to be 2009 but they have pushed it to 2010. Other town's charge for the brush, they do not. Mr. Knapp said the machine will be useful for so many projects and the chips will be used for reclamation and available to the public and depending on what they generate they can also be sold.

Mr. Esenwine asked if the price for the chipper includes a spare set of knives or just what it comes with. Mr. Knapp said the specs include an additional set of knives. Selectman Kurk said this reflects what they discussed about there being additional costs. Mr. Esenwine said the additional knives are expensive and they will want to be able to change the knives and have them sharpened without putting the machine out of order. Mr. Knapp said it will cost \$500 for an additional set of knives if they need to purchase them in the future. Mr. Knapp said the knives are also reversible. Selectman Kurk said she wants to make sure that when the time comes to have those blades replaced it will need to be in the default budget. Selectman Butt said typically maintenance should be included but he does not want to raise and appropriate money every year that is not needed. Selectman Kurk just wants to make sure when the equipment is purchased the maintenance is included within the budget as well. Mr. Esenwine said anytime a new piece of equipment is purchased there will be maintenance funds needed. Selectman Butt said existing equipment already has a line set aside for maintenance costs, but the dollar amount in that fund is based on maintenance costs from 5 years ago.

Mr. Esenwine commented on Article 17 to raise and appropriate \$43,000 to cover the cost of 6 months for a full time Fire Chief. Mr. Esenwine said he is not going to argue the merits of whether it is needed or not, he would be receptive to a full time EMT, but at the Deliberative Session they did not get a lot of information on the intent of this article. Mr. Esenwine said there was no job description at the time and that the Fire Department was just asking for the money and then informed the public they will put together a plan. Mr. Esenwine questions the dollar amount \$86,368 annually when the full time Police Chief makes \$75,000 and his hours are a lot more than what the Fire Chief would be putting in. Selectman Butt said when looking at the salary for the individual it also covers the monthly salary, longevity bonuses and special duty pay. This number includes the costs of benefits within the warrant article. Mr. Esenwine said if you look at the responses from the Fire Department they responded to over 640 calls overall and half of them were the emergency medical calls and not having to do with fire calls and approximately 300 were medical calls. Mr. Esenwine said then looking at the police log; the Police Department had approximately 10,000 calls for service last year. Selectman Kurk said there is a different range for those calculations. Mr. Esenwine said he understands the Police Chief does not respond to all those calls, but to set up a salary for a Fire Chief and not even know what his duties will be is not right.

Chairman Clow said there are a lot of issues involved and they need a fully qualified Fire Chief to provide leadership within the Fire Department. Chairman Clow said surrounding area Fire Chiefs will be coming before the Board to discuss the strain it is putting on other towns to provide mutual aid. This position will be certified and will fill the gap because the person will be certified and they will be able to have 2 people on the engine if neither was certified. Chairman Clow said they have 10,000 residents no full time emergency personnel available, which is not true with any other town their size. Chairman Clow strongly agrees with the need. Chairman Clow said it costs \$19,000 annually per family for insurance benefits and the person will not be making \$86,000 per year. Mr. Esenwine said he agrees, does not dispute, his point was they don't know what is being asked of the new chief and feels the townspeople have a right to know what they will be getting and what the job description will be. Mr. Esenwine agrees that they need full time personnel with the size of the town. Mr. Esenwine said when comparing other towns, these other towns have had full time people for a while and get their system's in line and know what

## FINAL

is expected of them and their chief. Mr. Esenwine said Weare cannot hire someone to start right off the bat with the pay scale right at the top end. Mr. Esenwine said there is not enough information, but he would support it if there was more information to let him know what they would be getting.

Mr. Knapp informed the Board that in doing an RFP for the 2 red listed bridges they can ask for the RFP but they can not ask for any pricing structures, they can just ask for qualifications according to the state. Mr. Knapp said the state asks you to pick a consultant that is on their list and then they can sit down and ask that firm for price structure on the work. Mr. Knapp said what has come up is that Peaselee Road bridge is one project that he submitted for stimulus funding, it came back on the short list and not many have been getting in there. Mr. Knapp feels they are very fortunate to be getting considered for a project as a small community. Selectman Butt asked Mr. Knapp to seek qualifications of firms. Mr. Knapp said the current company has done a decent job for them and might not be the cheapest but is not the most expensive. He does not want to be slow moving with this project. Mr. Knapp said the engineering costs could run \$100,000 (design, permitting, inspections from start to finish). Selectman Kurk asked where they stand with the permitting. Mr. Knapp said it won't be a hassle, he is asking to move ahead. Mr. Knapp said they don't have to commit to this firm for Lull Road. Chairman Clow understands there are deadlines and does not want to hold up the process. Selectman Kurk said Mr. Knapp has always done well and sees no reason not to move forward. Selectman Kurk said the more ready they are the better their chances are to get the funding.

**Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to enter into non public session @ 8:20 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a&c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Butt – yes; Selectman Kurk – yes; Chairman Clow – yes Passed 3-0-0**

**Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to come out of non public session @ 8:59 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Butt – yes; Selectman Kurk – yes; Chairman Clow – yes Passed 3-0-0**

**Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the non public session. Passed 3-0-0**

**Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to enter into non public session @ 8:59 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3II (a). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Butt – yes; Selectman Kurk – yes; Chairman Clow – yes Passed 3-0-0**

**Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Kurk seconded to come out of non public session @ 9:40 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Butt – yes; Selectman Kurk – yes; Chairman Clow – yes Passed 3-0-0**

During the non public session the Board discussed format and reviewed employee evaluations. Further decisions will be made after Tuesday's vote.

A True Record.

---

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary